PRESS RELEASE

Naval Air Facility Washington up and running on NMCI network
By Eric T. Mazzacone, PEO-IT Public Affairs

CAMP SPRINGS, Md. -- Friday, Sept.7, 2001 marked a historic event in the world of Navy Information Technology, the first seats were installed and connected to the Navy Marine Corps Intranet at Naval Air Facility Washington, in Camp Springs, Md. The first end-user seat connection to the Norfolk, Va. and San Diego Network Operations Centers was established at 5:35 p.m.

Aviation Machinist Mate 1st Class (AW) Ian Gehrmann, NAF Washington's Sailor of the Year, had the honor of sending the first message from NMCI to a host of Department of the Navy recipients, including the Honorable Gordon R. England, secretary of the Navy; the Honorable Susan Livingstone, undersecretary of the Navy; Adm. Vernon Clarke, chief of naval operations; Adm. Jamie Fallon, vice-chief of naval operations and James L Herdt master chief petty officer of the Navy.

The Commanding Officer of NAF Washington, Capt. Scott Beaton, was beaming with pride as the culmination of much hard work for his team and the Electronic Data Systems led Information Strike Force, all came together as the first operational message on NMCI in Washington was sent.

The message read in part, "At the direction of the Commanding Officer, Naval Air Facility Washington, I am pleased to report to the chain of command, 'We've been given a ready deck… NAF Washington has launched NMCI!"

The cutover transition for the 500 plus Base Operating Support and Mission computers is expected to be complete within three weeks. The facility handed over its computer operations to the ISF in January. NAF Washington is the first facility to operate using the NMCI.

According to Capt. Scott Beaton, NAF Washington commanding officer, "The advantages of being first are many because everyone is helping us succeed." Beaton believes that NMCI will save the Department of the Navy money and make Sailors' jobs a lot easier in the long run. "The proof is in the pudding. When Sailors turn on their computer, everything works and in most situations, it works better."

Capt. Chris Christopher, Deputy Program Executive Officer for Information Technology for the Navy and Director of NMCI services, commented, "After a long process of upgrading infrastructure, rationalizing legacy applications and testing, the wait is finally over, NMCI is here, and it's operational."

Naval Air Station Lemoore, Cali. and Space and Naval Warfare Command Headquarters are expected to be the next commands to cutover to NMCI. Their transition period will follow the receipt of an Interim Authority to Operate on the NMCI network.

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